

WAREHAM AND PURBECK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1941.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health

E.J. O'KEEFFE. B.A., M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors

E. SMITH. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and
Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
Meat and Other Foods Certificate Royal Sanitary
Institute.
(Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Foods Inspector).

A.T. SELVEY. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and
Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
(Sanitary Inspector and Housing Inspector).

The Medical Officer of Health also holds the appointments of
Medical Officer of Health to Wareham Borough Council, Swanage Urban
District Council, and Assistant Medical Officer to Dorset County
Council.

Public Health Office,
12a. Institute Road,
Swanage.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Wareham and Purbeck Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Wareham and Purbeck Rural District for the year 1941. The Report is limited to essential statistics and to important changes which have taken place during the year.

The health of the district has remained satisfactory and there was no serious outbreak of epidemic disease. Measles was prevalent during the first half of the year a total of 50 cases being notified. The disease was mild and there were no deaths. The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified dropped from 41 (1940) to 15. Whooping Cough continues to be the most serious of infectious diseases of childhood, 132 cases were notified and there were two deaths from this disease. It is almost certain that eventually an effective prophylactic agent will be available which will protect children against Whooping Cough.

Good progress was made under the Council's Scheme for immunisation of children against Diphtheria, but a much higher percentage of the child population must be protected. Every effort is being made to ensure that the majority of children in the district will be immunised as soon as possible after they reach the age of one year.

Whilst there was no evidence of increase of infestation with head lice or body lice amongst the inhabitants of the district, there was an increase in the number of cases of Scabies. This is mainly due to war conditions and is evidence of the low standard of housing and facilities for washing in working class houses in the district. In the greater majority of these houses including most of the Council's houses, the arrangements for bathing are unsatisfactory, there being no means of obtaining a ready supply of hot water. I recommend that in all Council Houses to be built in the future a hot water system should be installed to supply the bathroom and household lavatory basins. This in my opinion would be one of the greatest contributions towards the health of the inhabitants of the district. The provision of facilities for cleanliness would prevent much ill-health due to Scabies, Vermineous Conditions, and Intestinal Disorders, besides preventing loss of time at school in children, and loss of working time to adults.

The nuisance caused by overflowing cesspools in the district was reported on during the year. The Council considered it inadvisable under present circumstances, and in view of possible sewerage schemes at a later date, to undertake any system of cesspool emptying in the district.

I wish to thank the Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration during the year, and the Sanitary Inspectors and other Officials of the Council for their co-operation in the work of the Public Health and Sanitary Services.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

E.J. O'KEEFFE.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area. 95.954 acres.

Population. Registrar-General's estimate of
 (a) Resident Population, Mid. 1941)
 (b) Average Population appropriate to) 16,580
 the calculation of death rates)

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941) according to the rate book. 4,364
 Rateable value 287,461
 Sum represented by a penny rate 2327-18-0

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

| | | <u>Total.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | | |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|------------------------|-------|
| Live Births |) Legitimate | 278 | 153 | 125 |) Birth rate per 1,000 | |
| |) Illegitimate | 18 | 10 | 8 |) estimated resident | |
| | | | | |) population | 18.07 |
| Still Births |) Legitimate | 6 | 3 | 3 |) Rate per 1,000 (live | |
| |) Illegitimate | 1 | 1 | - |) and still) births... | 23.10 |
| Deaths | | 177 | 90 | 87 |) Death rate per 1,000 | |
| | | | | |) estimated average | |
| | | | | |) population | 10.8 |

Live Births. (For the purpose of calculation of infant and maternal mortality) :-

| | <u>Total.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| Legitimate | 312 | 170 | 142 |
| Illegitimate | 17 | 10 | 7 |

Still Births. (For the purpose of calculation of infant and maternal mortality) :-

| | <u>Total.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| Legitimate | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | 1 | - |

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list) :-

| | <u>Deaths.</u> | <u>Rate per 1,000 total</u> <u>(live and still) births.</u> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| No. 29. Puer: & post-abort: sepsis. | 1 | 2.9 |
| No. 30. Other puerperal causes | - | - |
| Total | 1 | 2.9 |

Deaths of infants under one year of age :-

| | <u>Total.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| Legitimate | 22 | 16 | 6 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | - | 1 |

Death rate of infants under one year of age :-

| | |
|---|------|
| All infants per 1,000 live births | 69.3 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | 70.5 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | 58.3 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | 50 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | - |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) | 2 |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) | 2 |

Birth, Death, Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates
during the Year 1941.

| | Births per 1,000 Population | | Deaths All Causes per 1,000 Population | Deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births | Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age per 1,000 Live Births | Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births. | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------|--|--|--|--|--------|-------|
| | Live Births | Still Births | | | | Puerperal Sepsis | Others | Total |
| England and Wales. | 14.2 | 0.51 | 12.9 | 59 | 5.1 | 0.48 | 1.75 | 2.23 |
| 148 Smaller Towns | | | | | | | | |
| estimated resident population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 | | | | | | | | |
| Census. | 16.4 | 0.60 | 13.0 | 56 | 4.6 | Not available | | |
| WAREHAM AND PURBECK | 18.07 | 0.42 | 10.8 | 69.9 | 6.0 | 2.9 | Nil | 2.9 |

There were no specially noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity during the year, nor any conditions of occupation or environment which would appear to have a prejudicial effect on health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There was no change during the year in the services provided in the area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

There have been no alterations to the sources of water supply to the area.

The following are particulars of samples of water taken during the year for bacteriological examination:-

| | |
|--|----|
| Total No. of samples from Public Supplies and Wells | 68 |
| " " " " which gave satisfactory results | 40 |
| " " " " " " unsatisfactory results | 28 |
| Total No. of samples from Private Supplies and Wells | 23 |
| " " " " which gave satisfactory results | 7 |
| " " " " " " unsatisfactory results | 16 |

Samples taken for chemical analysis:-

| | |
|--|---|
| Total No. of samples from Public Supplies and Wells | 6 |
| " " " " which gave satisfactory results | 5 |
| " " " " " " unsatisfactory results | 1 |
| Total No. of samples from Private Supplies and Wells | 3 |
| " " " " which gave satisfactory results | - |
| " " " " " " unsatisfactory results | 3 |

Drainage and Sewerage.

Bestwall Estate.

As a results of a further report submitted to the Council on the recurring nuisance caused by defective drainage and overflowing cesspools at the Bestwall Estate, Ministry of Health sanction was obtained for the construction of a sewer to take the sewerage from the Estate and to discharge into the Wareham Borough Sewerage System.

The Estate consists of 27 houses.

Rivers Pollution.

A complaint of pollution of the River Frome by sewage effluent was investigated. The effluent was found to be unsatisfactory, this was remedied and no further pollution has occurred.

Mosquito Control.

Spraying of the mosquito breeding grounds at Studland with Cresol and Paraffin was carried out in the spring. These measures have been carried out every spring since 1933 following a report by an Expert of the Ministry of Health on the mosquito nuisance.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS AND NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR.

General Sanitation.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Water Supply | 134 |
| Drainage | 41 |
| Offensive Trades | 2 |
| Tents, Vans and Sheds | 5 |
| Workshops | 5 |
| Workplaces | 1 |
| Outworkers | 3 |
| Bakehouses | 7 |
| Theatres and Places of Entertainment | 1 |
| Refuse Collection | 6 |
| Refuse Disposal | 16 |
| Rats and Mice | 6 |
| Schools | 4 |
| Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits | 21 |

Housing.

Under Public Health Acts.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Number of houses inspected | 157 |
| Visits paid to above houses | 134 |

Overcrowding.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Number of houses inspected | 2 |
| Visits paid to above houses | 1 |

Verminous Premises.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Number of houses inspected | 1 |
| Visits paid to above houses | 2 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Miscellaneous Housing Visits | 98 |
|------------------------------------|----|

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 160

New Houses.

| | |
|--|------|
| Total number of New Houses erected during 1941 | 7 |
| Number of houses owned by Local Authority | 118 |
| Approximate number of working class houses in district | 3510 |

Infectious Diseases.

| | |
|--|----|
| Inquiries in cases of infectious disease | 14 |
| Visits re disinfection | 26 |
| Miscellaneous infectious disease visits | 4 |

Meat and Food Inspection.

Inspection of Meat.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Visits to Slaughterhouses | 183 |
| Visits to Shops and Stalls | 77 |

Visits to:-

| | |
|---|-----|
| Butchers | 13 |
| Grocers | 3 |
| Cowsheds and Dairies | 303 |
| Food Preparing Premises | 36 |
| Street Vendors and Hawkers' Carts | 8 |

Visits in connection with sampling:-

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Milk - Bacteriological | 24 |
| Miscellaneous Food Visits | 7 |
| Total number of inspections | 1848 |

Notices Served.

| | |
|---|----|
| Number of informal notices served | 38 |
| " " " " " complied with | 31 |
| " " " " " outstanding | 5 |
| " " statutory " served | 3 |
| " " " " " complied with | 2 |
| " " " " " outstanding | 1 |

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Two hundred and ninety eight farms were inspected during the year, six notices, all of which were complied with, were served on owners in respect of defects.

Total number of milk producers on register at end of the year was 298. There are no milkshops in the area.
A total of 303 inspections were made.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 to 1941.

The following licenses were in force at the end of the year:-

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of Tuberculin Tested Milk Producers | 14 |
| " " Pastourising Establishments | 2 |
| " " Accredited Milk Producers | 68 |

Pasteurised Milk.

Regular visits were made to pastourising and bottling establishments in the district.

Pasteurising plants were inspected and recording thermometers were checked with a standard test thermometer.

| | |
|---|----|
| Total samples of pastourised milk taken | 24 |
| No. of samples which passed the phosphatase test | 24 |
| " " " " failed to pass the phosphatase test | - |
| " " " " in which the bacteria per millilitre was less than 100,000 | 20 |
| No. of samples in which the bacteria per millilitre was more than 100,000 | 4 |

Meat and Food Inspection.

There is one Government Controlled Slaughterhouse in the district, the carcasses of all animals slaughtered are inspected by the Meat and Food Inspector.

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption.

| | Cattle (exclud- ing Cows) | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs | Goats |
|--|---------------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|------|-------|
| Number killed | 50 | 1736 | 1358 | 6963 | 31 | 2 |
| Number inspected | 50 | 1736 | 1358 | 6963 | 31 | 2 |
| All Diseases except Tuberculosis. | | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | - | 4 | 1 | 4 | - | - |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | - | 435 | 35 | 60 | - | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis | - | 25.2 | 2.6 | 0.91 | - | - |
| Tuberculosis only. | | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | - | 18 | - | - | - | - |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | - | 148 | - | - | - | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis | - | 9.5 | - | - | - | - |

Total weight of meat condemned ... 22,350 lbs.

Knackers' Yards.

There is one licensed Knacker's Yard in the district.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following are particulars of cases notified during the year:-

| Disease | Total cases notified. | Cases admitted to hospital. | Total deaths. |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Dysentery | 1 | - | - |
| Paratyphoid | 1 | 1 | - |
| Scarlet Fever | 15 | 9 | - |
| Whooping Cough | 132 | - | 1 |
| Diphtheria | 6 | 6 | - |
| Erysipelas | 7 | - | - |
| Measles | 510 | - | - |
| Pneumonia | 23 | - | 1 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 5 | - | - |
| Cerebro Spinal Meningitis | 4 | 3 | - |
| Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis | 1 | - | 1 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 1 | - | - |

An epidemic of Measles occurred in the first six months of the year, 211 cases were notified during the month of March. The disease was mild and there were no fatal cases.

The number of Scarlet Fever cases continued to decline, 15 cases being notified compared with 41 for the year 1940.

Whooping Cough cases notified numbered 132 and there were two deaths from this disease. It is hoped that eventually a prophylactic inoculation will be available which will protect children against this serious disease as effectually as the diphtheria prophylactic inoculation protects against Diphtheria.

One case of Paratyphoid Fever occurred at a dairy-farm. All milk produced at the farm was sent to a milk factory where milk is pasteurised. Investigations to trace the source of infection in this case gave negative results.

One case of Sonne Dysentery was notified, investigations failed to reveal the source of infection.

Two cases of suspected food poisoning were notified, the cases occurred in the same house in a man and his wife, the sole occupants. Samples of suspected food, tinned fish, potted meat, and sausage, were examined bacteriologically. The result of examination showed that sausage was probably responsible for the illness. The illness lasted for about 48 hours.

Notification Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.

| Infectious Disease | England & Wales | 148 Smaller Towns | Wareham & Purbeck Rural District |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Typhoid Fever | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.00 |
| Paratyphoid Fever | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.06 |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever | 0.25 | 0.20 | 0.24 |
| Scarlet Fever | 1.47 | 1.51 | 0.91 |
| Whooping Cough | 4.39 | 4.50 | 8.05 |
| Diphtheria | 1.25 | 1.19 | 0.36 |
| Erysipelas | 0.30 | 0.27 | 0.42 |
| Smallpox | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Measles | 10.33 | 10.47 | 31.13 |
| Pneumonia | 1.25 | 1.04 | 1.40 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) | 11.91 | 9.43 | 14.8 |

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Good progress has been made during the year in immunising children against Diphtheria and the percentage of children who had completed a course of immunisation had risen at the end of 1941 from 3.2% at the end of 1940 to 16.97% for children under the age of 5 years, and from 7.14% to 45.20% for children between the age of 5 to 15 years.

1. Number of children (including temporary residents) who completed the full course of immunisation in the Authority's area between 1st January and 31st December, 1941 ...

| Age under 5 years | Age 5 years and over, but under 15 | Total |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------|
| 219 | 1309 | 1528 |

11. (A) Approximate estimated number of children in the Authority's area at 31st December, 1941 ...

Under 5 Between 5 & 15

...1596... 3453.....

- (B) Percentage of the child population shown under (A) considered immunised at 31st December, 1941 ...

...16.97...% 45.20.....%

(This estimate includes, so far as can be assessed, children immunised in the Authority's area by private arrangement, and children who have come into the area after being immunised elsewhere.)

Six cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year; none of these cases had been immunised against Diphtheria. There were no fatal cases.

Scabies and Verminous Conditions.

All cases are visited in their homes to ensure that adequate treatment is being carried out and to ascertain whether other cases exist amongst members of the household. Where necessary cases occurring in evacuee children admission to a Sick Bay for treatment is arranged.

During the year the Council authorised the application to Court, under Sec. 85 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for an Order for removal and cleansing of a mother and four children suffering from Scabies. Eventually the family submitted for treatment voluntarily.

Tuberculosis.

No action was necessary during the year under Sec. 172 Public Health Act 1936, or under The Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of all deaths during 1941:-

| Age Periods | | Now Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----------|----|---------------|----|-----------|----|---------------|----|
| | | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
| | | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 | ... | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | ... | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | ... | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | ... | | | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| 15 | ... | | | 1 | | | | | |
| 20 | ... | | 1 | | 1 | | | | |
| 25 | ... | 3 | 1 | | | | 1 | | |
| 35 | ... | 2 | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| 45 | ... | 2 | 1 | | | 2 | | | |
| 55 | ... | 2 | | 1 | | | | | |
| 65 and upwards | ... | 2 | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | |
| TOTALS | | 11 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 3 | - | - |

All persons who died from Tuberculosis had previously been notified as suffering from the disease.

Cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the Register of Notifications on 31st December, 1941:-

| Pulmonary | | | Non-Pulmonary | | | Total Cases |
|-----------|---------|-------|---------------|---------|-------|-------------|
| Males | Females | Total | Males | Females | Total | |
| 23 | 17 | 40 | 7 | 11 | 18 | 58 |

